

Iranian build up alarms U.S.; warns of imminent escalation

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. military forces in the Gulf have been alerted to a continuing buildup of Iranian gunboats around Kharg Island amid fears Iran may be planning to expand attacks on shipping and oilfields, according to defence officials.

The coast guard, meantime, plans to send a small number of patrol cutters to the Gulf to assist U.S. forces there, defence sources said Tuesday.

The officials, who demanded anonymity, said U.S. intelligence agencies "have been working overtime" trying to keep track of the boats at Kharg Island — one of Iran's main oil-loading ports — in the northern Gulf and to divine Iran's intentions.

Last weekend, Iran sent about four dozen small gunboats streaming westward across the Gulf from Kharg toward a Saudi Arabian offshore oilfield, according to the sources. The vessels reportedly turned back without mounting an attack after they were spotted by an AWACS radar plane and intercepted by Saudi Arabian jet fighters.

Saudi Arabia has denied that any confrontation occurred. But the Iranian naval activities were sufficiently unusual to prompt several

what would be the coast guard's most distant deployment under Defence Department direction since the Vietnam war. The coast guard is a transportation department agency.

Chief Pentagon spokesman Fred Hoffman insisted "no final decision have been made." The coast guard declined comment beyond acknowledging in a statement: "There has been a recent review of coast guard capabilities that have potential use in the current situation (in the Gulf)."

The defence sources said, however, the patrol vessels would be used to help guard large barges that have been leased to serve as floating bases for navy mine-sweeping boats.

The sources said the joint chiefs of staff had decided the use of coast guard vessels would free larger navy frigates to concentrate on searching for Iranian boats suspected of sowing mines in the Gulf.

There is some debate as to whether the Iranians were just testing the Saudis for a response over the weekend," added a second official. "But whatever they were doing then, they're still massing in the area now."

"Our surveillance is now almost constant," added another source.

Meantime, defence sources said a "handful" of patrol cutters, small airplanes and helicopters would soon be sent to the Gulf in

two U.S. military helicopters have crashed in the Gulf in recent weeks during routine operations, said the coast guard boats and helicopters would be available for search-and-rescue duties in the event of future accidents, "again freezing up the navy ships."

The coast guard operates several different types of patrol craft, ranging from small boats to 300-foot (91-metre) ships. The sources said the coast guard would probably be sending some cutters measuring about 100 feet (30-metre) long to the Gulf.

All of the larger patrol cutters are armed, albeit lightly.

The coast guard was heavily involved in supporting the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam war, maintaining patrols along the South Vietnamese coastline. More recently, coast guard cutters were sent to the Island of Grenada for temporary maritime patrol duties following the U.S. invasion there in 1983.

Unlike the U.S. Navy frigates, destroyers and cruisers, the coast guard's patrol cutters are not considered combatant ships, and thus many of them include women among their crews.

Another source, noting that

'Roof for homeless Palestinians — please'

UNRWA urgent appeal to warring Lebanese factions

By a reporter

VIENNA — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) urgently appealed Tuesday to warring factions in Lebanon to permit emergency housing repairs to camps in Beirut, where thousands of Palestine refugees

had been made clear by Amal that repair work on UNRWA premises and refugee housing would be permitted only after a reported agreement between Amal and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had gone into effect.

"I have not yet heard that this has happened," Mr. Giacomelli said. "Any linking of humanitarian assistance to the settlement of political controversy is not acceptable, above all for an agency whose very mandate and reason for existence is precisely to provide aid to the victims of a political problem, pending its solution," Mr. Giacomelli declared.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli said at a briefing session for diplomatic missions in Vienna that successive rounds of fighting had destroyed 65 per cent of Beirut's Bourj Al-Barajneh Camp and 85 per cent of Shatila Camp, which formerly housed some 17,000 refugees.

"Unless building materials are allowed into the camps quickly,

these refugees will be exposed to the winter rains and cold, and we will be facing death and disease on a large scale among the refugees," Mr. Giacomelli said.

He was addressing a routine

twice-yearly information meeting on UNRWA's education, health and relief services for 2.2 million

registered Palestine refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Giacomelli told representatives of about 40 governments that UNRWA was improving its health services and upgrading the training courses offered to young Palestine refugees. It was also developing techniques to help destitute refugees to become at least partly self-supporting.

While UNRWA's general financial situation had eased somewhat, thanks to increased voluntary contributions by governments and to prudent management, the agency's dilapidated buildings had become a problem. Mr. Giacomelli forecast a need for some \$50 million over the next four or five years to deal with critical construction needs.

Pahlavi yearns for Shah throne

BONN (R) — The exiled eldest son of the late Shah of Iran says he has supporters in Iran who would be able to overthrow the Islamic government within two to three days when the time was ripe, a West German magazine said on Wednesday.

"We are waiting for the right moment," Reza Cyrus Pahlavi, the 27-year-old son of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, said in an interview with the Munich published magazine Bunte.

The interview was released ahead of Thursday's publication.

Pahlavi, who crowned himself Shah while living in exile and hopes to restore the monarchy in Iran, told Bunte he even has supporters among the men close to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Iran's Islamic leader.

"Reza Cyrus Pahlavi claims that the present government of Iran could be overthrown and the situation in the Gulf could be stabilised within 48 to 72 hours," Bunte said.

Iran has been at war with Iraq since 1980.

Pahlavi's father, the former Shah, left Iran in January, 1979 amid strikes and demonstrations against his rule, and died the following year.

Pahlavi told Bunte that recent developments in the Gulf war had destroyed the Khomeini government's credibility abroad.

Last month, the United States accused Iran of sowing mines in international waters in the Gulf.

"Now the Iranian regime has shown its real face. Just about everyone has drawn the conclusion that one can't negotiate with this government," Bunte quoted him as saying.

The magazine said Pahlavi remained convinced that there would be a successful "counter-revolution" against Khomeini.

"I consider myself to be the king of all Iranians," he said, according to Bunte.

Bourguiba clamps down on Islamic opposition

crowding the beaches.

Most Tunisians seem to cherish their liberal lifestyle, unusual in the Arab World. But observers say Mr. Bourguiba's advanced age, coupled with a stalled economy, create a fragile mix in which fundamentalism is a convenient outlet for dissent.

In the view of some Tunisians, Mr. Bourguiba's crackdown is aimed partly at the infighting among his possible successors as the end of his reign approaches.

For seven months, the government has conducted an unprecedented campaign against MTI, accusing it of trying to destabilise Tunisia's western-oriented government in collusion with Iran.

Tunisia broke diplomatic relations with Iran in March. In August, the government banned women from wearing the "chador" headscarf, associated with Iran's Islamic Republic and Islamic fundamentalism elsewhere.

The government estimates hard-core MTI activists at 30,000 and says 1,270 of them have been arrested. Independent observers say there have been at least 2,000 arrests.

Some Tunisians and other observers believe Mr. Bourguiba will be forced either to cut back Tunisia's timid experiments in democratic rule, or to make concessions to a groundswell of religious fervor, spurred in part by the crackdown.

The relatively lenient verdict in the month-long trial of 90 fundamentalists accused of sedition and terrorism was widely regarded as bowing to pressure from France, the United States and moderate Arab Nations, which feared a backlash if dozens were sent to the gallows.

The prosecution had demanded death sentences for all 90 accused, some of them members of the outlawed Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI). Only two of the seven sentenced to death are in custody, and no date has been set for their execution. The other five are fugitives.

The Lebanon-based Islamic Jihad has threatened to kill Tunisian leaders should any death sentence be carried out.

Thirty years after the end of French colonial rule, the imprint of France is still visible everywhere in Tunisia, in Parisian-style cafes, newsstands selling foreign publications and bikini-clad girls

A military man long in command of all Tunisian police forces, Ben Ali was at the helm of the police crackdown on fundamentalists.

MTI has demonstrated its tenacity and its ability to disrupt. The group staged nearly weekly street demonstrations over the past year despite the crackdown and, through strikes and harassment, managed to disrupt Tunisia university classes one day out of three in the past academic year, officials said.

Although it publicly disowns violence, MTI was blamed by the government for the August resort hotel bombing which injured 12 European tourists.

An even more extremist movement, the outlawed Islamic Liberation Party, openly advocates terrorism to oust Mr. Bourguiba.

The government estimates hard-core MTI activists at 30,000 and says 1,270 of them have been arrested. Independent observers say there have been at least 2,000 arrests.

Fundamentalist activists live in hiding in Tunisia or in exile in western Europe and the Middle East, allegedly with Iranian support.

Some observers believe fundamentalism potentially has a larger following than any one of Tunisia's opposition parties. Only three opposition parties are legally allowed to function, and President Bourguiba's Destourian Socialist Party holds all 136 seats in parliament.

Defence lawyers and some observers at the trial said the government may eventually be forced to accommodate MTI.

In the view of some Tunisians, Mr. Bourguiba's crackdown is aimed partly at the infighting among his possible successors as the end of his reign approaches.

For seven months, the government has conducted an unprecedented campaign against MTI, accusing it of trying to destabilise Tunisia's western-oriented government in collusion with Iran.

MTI, formed in 1981, wants a society guided exclusively by the Koran, the Muslim holy book. It is demanding official recognition as a political party.

"There are propositions from both sides. Both have set their conditions. We will see what happens," the sources said.

Japan to help Gulf shipping, states

By Eugene Moosa
Reuter

TOKYO — Japan announced measures to help shipping in the Gulf and nations in the region on Wednesday, but stopped short of direct involvement or financial aid to U.S. forces protecting its tankers.

The package, announced by chief cabinet secretary Masaharu Gotoda, also promised increased contributions to the upkeep of American forces in Japan, apparently to offset the cost of U.S. vessels patrolling the Gulf.

Mr. Gotoda said the Japanese government would provide an advanced ship tracking system in the Gulf to improve security for all vessels.

He did not give the cost of the British-designed Decca tracking system, which helps ships fix their positions accurately, or say how much Tokyo would contribute to U.S. forces in Japan.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone told reporters after the announcement: "This is

utmost which would be supported by our people."

Japan has come under increased pressure from the United States to make some commitment toward security in the Gulf, through which it receives about 55 per cent of its crude oil.

The All Japan Seamen's Union has expressed concern that open payments by Japan to Washington to compensate for U.S. naval protection for Japanese ships would lead to retaliation from Iran.

Government officials have rejected suggestions that Japan should send mine-sweepers to the Gulf.

Nakasone said last month that Japan's peace constitution did not bar the dispatch of naval vessels to the Gulf.

It was unclear whether Japan would install and operate the system or whether that would be handled by others.

"We have to consult with the countries concerned, including the United States, on these matters immediately," she said.

Israeli terrorist freed for U.S. trip

TEL AVIV (AP) — A U.S.-born member of a Jewish terrorist group was released from prison for four days to visit his sick mother in the United States, a police spokesman said Tuesday.

Ira Rappaport, formerly of Brooklyn, N.Y., was sentenced last December to two and a half years in prison for belonging to a Jewish underground group that carried out several attacks on Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

The officials said U.S. Secretaries of State George Shultz raised the issue with foreign minister Shimon Peres at the United Nations last week and was expected to broach it again when he visits Israel next week.

He was convicted of aggravated assault for attacking a boy-trapped bomb to the car of a former mayor of the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, Bassam Shakaa. Mr. Shakaa's legs were blown off in the 1980 explosion.

Rappaport was not in Israel when the 25 other members of the Jewish underground were captured in April 1984.

He returned voluntarily in February 1986 after reaching a plea

bargaining agreement with the Justice Ministry.

Rappaport said at the time that he had remained in the United States to look after his mother.

He was set to begin his four-day leave on Saturday but could not board his plane because of an existing restraining order banning him from leaving the country.

Police spokeswoman Ruth Shlezinger said the Justice Ministry has temporarily lifted the ban to enable Rappaport to travel.

TV & RADIO

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ), information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 5220-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

10:15 Agaba (RJ) Cairo (RJ)

10:30 Kuwait (RJ) Irbid (RJ)

10:45 Dhekelah (RJ) Doha (GF)

10:55 Dubai (EK) Kuala Lumpur (M)

11:00 Ankara (TK) Istanbul (TK)

11:15 Riyadh (SV) Sana'a (LH)

11:30 Beirut (ME) Baghdad (AF)

11:45 Bahrain (D) Doha (GF)

11:55 Kuala Lumpur (M) Kuala Lumpur (M)

12:00 London (G) London (G)

12:15 Larnaca (RJ) Larnaca (RJ)

12:30 Cairo (A) New York (RJ)

12:45 Athens (RJ) Paris (AF)

12:55 Rome (RJ) Rome (RJ)

13:00 Zurich (L) Zurich (L)

13:15 Paris (AF) Paris (AF)

13:30 Frankfurt (RJ) Frankfurt (RJ)

13:45 Brussels (RJ) Brussels (RJ)

13:55 Cairo (RJ) Cairo (RJ)

14:00 Larnaca (RJ) Larnaca (RJ)

14:15 Beirut (ME) Beirut (ME)

14:30 Kuala Lumpur (M) Kuala Lumpur (M)

14:45 London (G) London (G)

14:55 Paris (AF) Paris (AF)

15:00 Frankfurt (RJ) Frankfurt (RJ)

15:15 Brussels (RJ) Brussels (RJ)

Health team reports shortage of nurses

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is in need of an additional 844 nurses at present, and will be in need of many more from now until the year 2,000, according to the findings of a special Health Ministry committee charged with assessing Jordan's need for nurses.

The committee, which met Wednesday, said in a statement that it had worked out a plan for covering the national need for nurses and recommended that at least 370 nurses be turned out from the nursing schools and colleges every year until the year

2,000 — an increase from the present rate of 300 annually.

The committee based its decision on international studies which take into consideration the number of nurses and assistant nurses required for running the health services in the country, according to the statement.

It said that the committee members, at their Wednesday meeting, discussed the question of recruiting and training midwives and substituting foreign nurses with local nurses.

Jordan and Turkey seek balance in trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry, Trade, and Supply Rajai Muasher met on Wednesday with a Turkish delegation and discussed the implementation of a Jordanian-Turkish trade and economic protocol signed last November.

The delegation represents Turkey's side to the joint Jordanian-Turkish economic committee which opened meetings here Tuesday.

The Jordanian side to the talks is led by Mr. Mohammad Saqqaf, under-secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply. Most of the discussion during the meeting has centred on Jordan's phosphate exports to Turkey, and on exchanging expertise in the fertiliser and mining industries. Under the terms of the pro-

tocol, both sides agreed to work towards balancing imports and exports, since the present balance of trade is in favour of Turkey. Under the renewed protocol, Turkey said it would purchase a minimum of 150,000 tonnes of Jordanian phosphate during 1987, and would increase its imports of Jordan's potash, pharmaceutical products, and drip irrigation equipment.

The talks were conducted by Turkish Minister of Trade and Commerce Cahit Aral, who said that he would encourage private Turkish companies and import agencies to increase their imports from Jordan. Following the talks here, the two sides are expected to sign the minutes of their deliberations.

Masri receives credentials from three new appointees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The newly-appointed Canadian ambassador to Jordan, Michael Bell on Wednesday met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Taber Al Masri and presented him a copy of his credentials. Mr. Bell succeeds Mr. Gary Harman who had been ambassador in Jordan since 1985.

The foreign minister also received on Wednesday a copy of the credentials of Mr. Datu Lila Haj Mohammad Qasem Daoud, the designate-ambassador to Jordan from the Sultanate of Brunei.

as well as the credentials of Dr. Ali Ahmed Attiga, resident representative of the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) in Jordan.

Dr. Attiga, a Libyan national, served in high-level positions in the Libyan government before joining the international civil service.

He served with the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) as its secretary general from 1974 to September 1987.

Crown Prince urges housing plan based on social development

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said on Wednesday that the housing strategy in Jordan should, in the future, be based on the principle of promoting social development in the Kingdom.

Addressing a meeting at the Housing Corporation to discuss integrated policies on housing in Jordan, Prince Hassan said that the planners of these projects should take into consideration the districts where the housing will be set up and the population it will serve. The future housing projects should provide for different social, health and educational activities, as well as serving as homes. For this reason, careful planning is required to ensure a successful scheme, the Crown Prince said.

He stressed that housing projects should be built in such a way that they have a balanced relationship with the different organisations and economic and social activities that originally exist. In addition, they should have basic infrastructure and services, and employ essentially local raw and primary material.

During the meeting, agreement was reached on holding a special symposium during which a plan will be created for a Jordanian housing strategy.

The meeting was attended by the president of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Dr. Jawad Al Anan, the secretary-general of the Ministry of Planning, Dr. Ziyad Fariz, the director-general of the Housing Corporation, Mr.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan leaves the Housing Corporation after, on Wednesday, addressing a conference on devising a housing strategy for Jordan (Petra photo)

Shafiq Zawaideh, and the director of the Urban Development Department.

The meeting followed Tuesday's seminar, held at the RSS, to discuss means for reducing the cost of building, in harmony with the country's observation of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

The Housing Bank, which finances most housing projects in the country, said Tuesday that Jordan will need to build over 430,000 housing units during the coming two decades. Housing Bank Deputy General Manager Bassam Atari said in a lecture that nearly 85 per cent of the units, or about 300,000, will be needed for low-income families. Mr. Atari ex-

pects JD 2.9 billion to be invested in housing projects over the coming 20 years to meet the needs of the growing population.

Last month, a newly-formed national committee charged with organising activities and celebrations for the Arab Housing Day held several meetings to discuss developing an informational plan for housing that would involve various sectors.

The plan would focus on the need to handle all housing issues by considering the human element, as well as financial and land matters.

The committee announced that several housing projects will be inaugurated in the country on Oct. 15, marking the Arab Housing Day.

Muasher outlines investment areas for Kuwaiti businessmen

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher conferred here Wednesday with a delegation of Kuwaiti investors and businessmen working for the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development (KFED).

The talks focused on projects in which Kuwaiti businessmen can participate, specifically cereal production, processing of fodder, and livestock breeding in southern Jordan. Also discussed were the prospects of building a tourist

village at Dibbin and chalets on the beach of Aqaba with Kuwaiti investors' money.

The delegation later met with Ministry of Industry under secretary general Mohammad Saqqaf to discuss cooperation between the KFED and Jordan. The Kuwaiti team had earlier visited Aqaba and met with Aqaba Region Authority Director Dureid Mahasneh, with whom they toured port installations and development projects.

The delegation's visit was recommended by a two-day conference held in Kuwait last April to promote investments in Jordan. The conference's final communiqué said that Kuwaiti investors and businessmen expressed desire to invest capital in Jordanian projects.

Dr. Muasher, who addressed the conference, outlined projects included in the 1988-1990 five-year development plan. He also explained incentives, privileges and exemptions offered to investors, as provided for by Jordanian law on encouraging investments.

Special WHO committee decides to assist Arabs living under occupation

BAGHDAD (Petra) — An Eastern Mediterranean committee formed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which held meetings in Baghdad in the past week, decided on a number of measures to improve health conditions in the Arab region, according to Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh, who led Jordan's delegation to the committee meetings.

He said that the committee has decided to offer health assistance to the Arab population under Israeli rule and to the Lebanese people. The committee also recommended that no antibiotic drugs be dispensed by pharmacies

and drug stores without doctors' prescriptions. In addition, it suggested that Arab states should observe April 7 as a non-smoking day.

The minister said that Jordan is among the foremost countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region which has succeeded in nearly eradicating measles. The measles issue and combating diarrhoea and other children's diseases were among the subjects discussed by the committee members.

United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) Regional Director Richard Reid last week said that measles is almost eradicated in Jordan, Oman and Turkey. Mr. Reid, in earlier interviews with the Jordan Times, said that UNICEF does not feel that a massive nation-wide campaign is necessary in Jordan since the health services here are excellent and well organised.

According to Dr. Hamzeh, the committee members discussed promoting primary health care and held seminars on the subject during the conference. The committee includes representatives from 18 Arab countries and five African nations, and is supervised and sponsored by the WHO.

Artist Yousef Husseini moves beyond stereotypes, paints bedouin with dignity

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

"Heights," carry 19th century overtones which work to dramatise and give more depth to the painting.

One comes away from the exhibition with mixed feelings. On one level, the paintings please while, on another level, they are slightly frustrating; for, you feel that an artist of Husseini's calibre, is capable of much more deeply satisfying and significant work. Hopefully, one day when he has more time, this will be the case. The exhibition runs until Oct. 11.

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By Meg Abu

Jordan Times

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Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Minimum wage required

MUCH commentary has been devoted to the subject of employment, or rather unemployment, in Jordan over the last few months. What has drawn special attention from Jordanians are the advertisements for employment published in daily newspapers here, some of which have reached the point of absurdity, and serve to underline the urgent need for state action to remedy the unemployment situation. A particularly distressing example of these advertisements is one published in the Arabic daily, Al Ra'i, in its Oct. 5 edition, where the Ministry of Labour and Social Development advertised a job opening at Abu Khalaf grocery store for a labourer to clean the shop. The conditions of employment, as mentioned in the advertisement, were so abhorrent to every civilised norm that one is compelled to refer to them, in order to drive home the slavery-like conditions under which some labourers are required to work. These conditions include a salary of a mere JD 40 per month and work hours from 6 a.m. till 10 p.m. And, to add insult to injury, the applicant was requested to submit certificates of experience. One might tolerate such a grossly unfair offer had it come directly from the proprietor, without the involvement of the government. By including the name of the ministry in an employment advertisement such as this, the government becomes an unwitting accessory to unjust treatment of employees, whether they are Jordanian nationals or otherwise. One would have thought that the bureaucracy would refrain from involvement in such practices, unless they meet the minimum standards that our treaty obligations require of us. This is without mentioning the prerequisites of fair play and decency.

Fortunately, such incidents bring to the fore the need to formulate additional laws in Jordan to safeguard labourers from slavery-like conditions. The first priority of such national legislation should be the incorporation of a "minimum wage" concept into our labour laws and regulations. It is clearly recognised that we are currently encountering an unemployment problem; we must draw attention to the need to protect labourers and employees from the abuses often associated with conditions of unemployment. In other words, this is the time when labourers need our protection from the whims of employers who, sometimes exploit economic difficulties to demand unfair requirements from workers. It will be recalled that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) was established in order to redress the unfair treatment of employees and to free them from the dictates of market circumstances controlled by the interaction of supply and demand. Jordan already has a commendable record in meeting the requirements of various international legislations on work conditions; and it is only natural that we expect our concerned authorities to rectify the existing aberrations in our present labour laws and regulations. May we then expect our newspapers to advertise only humane working conditions and our concerned authorities to refrain from consenting to such publicised injustice?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Remembering the October war

THE 14th anniversary of the October War passed by yesterday as the Arab World was involved in preparations for the coming summit meeting. But the occasion is a real cause of pride for all the Arab peoples since it reminds all of us of the true solidarity that prevailed during the war and the great courage and achievements of the Egyptian and Syrian armed forces. The October War of 1973 entails a very important lesson represented in the fact that the Arab Nation can by no means regain its rights and its lands without unity. The Arab countries which are making ready for a summit meeting in Amman should realise that all the hardships and the setbacks that were inflicted on the Arab Nation came as a result of the gaps that mar the unity of the Arab ranks and continue to cause differences and disputes within the Arab World. The October War was a true Arab victory made up by the Syrian and Egyptian armed forces, backed by Jordan, Iraq, Morocco and other countries. That backing and support represented the true face of solidarity without which no individual Arab state can achieve any success. Unless the enemies of the Arab World are confronted by a united Arab force, they will never recognise our rights in the usurped Arab homeland and will continue to hold on to the occupied parts of Arab territory.

Al Dustour: Jordanian-Iraqi coordination

KING HUSSEIN'S visit to Baghdad and his meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Tuesday were within the framework of consultations and coordination between the political leaderships in Iraq and Jordan. The visit assumes added importance since it comes within the on-going contacts among Arab countries in preparation for the coming summit in Amman and as world nations continue efforts to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 to end the Gulf conflict. Jordan is determined on preparing the ground for a successful summit by narrowing the gap separating Arab leaders and ending differences in their views for the sake of reaching common understanding. The Jordanian endeavour coincides with the current intensive efforts being made within the United Nations organisation for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 that would bring an end to the Gulf war and bring peace to the Arab region. The flurry of diplomatic activity follows a unanimous agreement by world nations on the need for implementing the resolution and on ending the seven-year-old war. Despite the world's call for peace, Iran has been escalating the conflict by launching missiles on Baghdad and shelling Basra.

Sawt Al Shaab: King visits Iraq

KING HUSSEIN'S talks in Baghdad with President Saddam Hussein covered the on-going Gulf conflict and underlined the joint stand of the two countries vis-a-vis the Iranian aggression and its consequences on the security and peace of the Arab area. Jordan has been bucking Iraq in its war with Iran and supporting its efforts to defend the Arab soil and at the same time to achieve peace in the Gulf region. Supporting Iraq and its people in the face of aggression is a pan-Arab responsibility and should be among the priorities of subjects that should be discussed at the coming summit meeting in Amman. King Hussein who has been visiting different Arab capitals and meeting with Arab leaders is paving the way for a successful summit which would see a true solidarity among Arab leaders in bucking Iraq and saving the Arab Nation from further sufferings.

Israel marginalises Negev bedouins

By Irene Ertugrul

ON the outskirts of Beersheba, Israel's principal city in the Negev, stands Omer — the most luxurious Israeli suburb south of Tel Aviv. Within shouting distance of Omer's phalanx of villas and gardens and separated from it by a strip of pitted, rubble-strewn sand stretches a squalor of tin and wooden sheds. Some sixty Bedouin families, evicted by the government from their ancestral lands, have lived in Abu Shiran since 1951. But almost four decades later their settlement has still not been provided with either a sewage system or electricity. Its only "amenity" is a single water spout.

For the 45,000 Bedouin living in scores of other Negev communities, which Israel also regards as "illegal," conditions are often worse. Though their settlements are sometimes adjacent to flourishing kibbutzim, founded on land confiscated from the Bedouin, any infrastructure — apart, perhaps, from a trickle of water — is deliberately withheld from them. Through such pressure, the government seeks to prod the Bedouin into moving to the five "concentration" townships, situated on a barren strip east of Beersheba.

Members of the Green Patrol (mostly Arabic-speaking Moroccan Jews who, armed, roam the desert in jeeps) serve as the instrument of government policy. Activated when Ariel Sharon was minister of agriculture in the late 1970s, the patrol's mission is to clear the Negev of Bedouin with as little publicity as possible.

Tales of brutality by the Green Patrol are commonplace. Moving in while Bedouin men are away from their settlement, they have beaten up women who resist destruction of their homes — shacks, tents and even stone houses erected well before Israel became a state. Crops the Bedouin have grown — winter wheat and barley, as well as olive and fruit trees — are uprooted. Under the charge of "illegal grazing," herds of sheep and goats are often confiscated. These are sold for profit. More often, they are held in "quarantine" until the owner agrees to pay an exorbitant fine. In January, \$5,000 in fines and \$1,300 in legal fees were demanded of two Bedouin families for the release of their 400 sheep.

The only advantage to Bedouin who move to a "concentration" town (buying a tiny plot and usually having to borrow money from a bank to finance a house) is that there their dwelling will be protected from demolition. But, in return for such minimal security, they are obliged to officially renounce any claim to ancestral lands.

Having migrated to the Negev in Byzantine times, the Bedouin were given free rein by a succession of rulers — Arabs, Ottoman. Though families have often had

Turks and British mandate authorities — to divide territory according to firm patterns of tribal ownership. Nomadic pastoralists gradually began to be abandoned in favour of agricultural and, by 1931, a British census revealed 89.3 per cent of the Bedouin to be full-time farmers. But neither during Ottoman nor British times were surveys of the Negev (in contrast to other parts of Palestine) undertaken. Official documentation of ownership, therefore, remained scant.

In 1948, during the fighting that led to the establishment of Israel, four-fifths of the 95,000 Bedouin in the Negev either fled or were expelled by Jewish forces into Jordan and Egypt. The new Israeli government moved most of the 11,000 Bedouin who remained in the Negev away from their often fertile farmlands and into a drought-prone reservation east of Beersheba. In Beersheba itself, Bedouin homes were bulldozed. The town's large mosque was converted into a museum; its smaller one became a cafe.

To this day, the Bedouin still lay claim to a third of the Negev, territory that they have used for generations. Falling back on whatever evidence they can muster (British aerial photographs and maps, as well as some deeds), they have filed over 3,000 land claims against the state of Israel. Though families have often had

to sell their herds to pay legal fees, these suits have remained stalled in the court system for decades.

Meanwhile, Israel, using legalistic devices familiar in the Galilee and now in the occupied territories, has proceeded to confiscate 90 per cent of the area the Bedouin contest. Territories near Gaza from which the Bedouin had been forcibly expelled in 1951 were seized on the basis of a 1953 law that permitted the state to claim any land that was not in the possession of its owner in 1952. To bypass a law that recognises ownership of land if a settlement does not move for ten years, the Green Patrol has charged into a camp site, killed a few dogs and frightened the settlement elder into moving his tent by a few hundred metres. This nullifies the accumulated years.

In 1979-80, when Israel moved its airfields and training grounds from the Sinai to the Negev following the Camp David agreement, a further huge area (82,000 dunums) of Bedouin land was requisitioned. The Bedouin were given one-tenth of the compensation that Jewish settlers in the Sinai received, and a law was passed forbidding Israeli courts from hearing any appeals from the Bedouin. Later, some of this land — instead of being used for military purposes — was passed on to various kibbutzim.

"We are willing to settle for half the territories we owned," says Nuri Al Ubqi, chairman of an association founded in 1979 to defend the Negev Bedouin. "But it is impossible to take all of our rights and still, as Israel says, want peace."

What the Bedouin seek is the opportunity to live in recognised agricultural settlements and for those to receive the same governmental support as do Jewish cooperative farms. This, the Israelis firmly refuse. "The future of the Negev," Israeli officials say, "lies in industry, not in agriculture." The only option offered to the Bedouin is to move to a "concentration" town.

Some 20,000 have already done so — in the hope of at least improving their living conditions.

But apart from the opportunity to build a "legal" dwelling, conditions in the townships are indeed grim. Founded fifteen years ago, Rahat — the largest of them, with a population of 16,000 — has still not even been provided with a sewage system.

Most resented by the Bedouin, however, is the fact that the townships are structured in a manner that only seems to aggravate their dispossession. In keeping with Israel's policy of severing wherever possible, Palestinian Arab connection with the land, no area for agricultural purposes has been allotted in

townships. Industry, an alternative, is also beyond the Bedouin's reach. Government restrictions prohibit the establishment of any industry or business enterprise whatsoever in the townships. Residents are thus forced into offering themselves as landless, unskilled labourers to nearby Jewish towns and settlements.

Bedouin anger, particularly among the youth, is mounting. But, scattered and poorly schooled (almost 50 per cent of those born since 1948 when primary education became compulsory are, nevertheless, illiterate), putting forth an effective protest movement seems beyond their present condition. "Of course, we are angry," says Nuri Al Ubqi, "but we try to keep it under the surface because we are afraid to lose what little we have left."

Zaif Templer, a recent American immigrant and one of the handful of Israelis active in helping the Bedouin, is more explosive in his frustration. "South of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, there is no active, viable Jewish left. And the government knows it can step on the Bedouin sector and they won't organise to protest. Five thousand Bedouin on a hunger strike in front of the prime minister's office is just not possible." — Middle East International, London.

Mubarak cools political temperature but fails to ignite popular enthusiasm

By John Rogers
Reuter

CAIRO — After six years in charge of the largest Arab country and with another six in hand, President Hosni Mubarak is still trying to ignite the spark of enthusiasm among Egyptians.

"We like him and we respect him," said a veteran Cairo newspaperman. "But people see him as unexciting and dull."

Mubarak has cooled the political temperature in a volatile country that has seen one president assassinated and fought three wars since a 1952 revolution toppled the monarchy.

And it is this role, as a force for what the government-owned press dubs "security and stability," that won him a second six-year term, until 1993, following a referendum on Monday.

But the problem is apathy. Mubarak himself on Sunday urged voters above all to turn out, even if they voted against giving him a second term. The government machine has been trying to whip up pro-Mubarak fervour.

Chunky and stolid, Mubarak at 59 sometimes looks as though he has had enough of politics.

He won prominence as air force chief in the October 1973 Sinai battles with Israel which led to Egypt's recovery of the peninsula after a 1979 U.S.-brokered peace treaty.

Named vice-president by President Anwar Sadat, he was thrust into the top job when Muslim zealots in the army shot Sadat dead during an anniversary parade on October 6, 1981.

On the eve of the referendum, Mubarak hinted that he had considered bowing out after one term.

"I have, in recent days, passed the most difficult test ... but in the end I had no choice but to agree to the will of the people," he said in a televised speech.

A reluctant politician, he never wears military uniform, stressing the civilian nature of Egypt's government rather than its military underpinning.

Mubarak's style of government is consensual and his trademark is caution.

After nearly three decades of dramatic leadership by the flamboyant Sadat and his predecessor Gamal Abdul Nasser, a towering figure in Third World politics of the 1950s and 1960s, he is lacklustre.

According to his supporters, this is what Egypt needs — serious, moderate concentration on long-term economic and social goals.

"Hosni Mubarak's heart is in the right place," wrote leading newspaper columnist Ahmed Bahaddin on Monday.

It's a verdict few would dispute, but an unexciting accolade.

Mubarak preaches an unattractive message — work harder,



Hosni Mubarak
produces more, have fewer babies — as his recipe for Egypt's economic health.

He has held back from radical economic reforms and, backed by the United States and European Community countries, won International Monetary Fund (IMF) standby help for Egypt's debt-laden economy on exceptionally lenient terms.

Armed with last May's IMF deal, Egypt is now negotiating rescheduling deals with Western creditor governments.

"It amounts to a political reshuffling," said a Western diplomat.

The West, aware of Egypt's strategic Middle East role controlling the Suez Canal, does not want to force Mubarak into radical steps, such as sharply hiking prices of basic goods, that could spark unrest. He himself has vowed not to take action that would harm the masses.

Apart from being backed by Western governments, Mubarak has gradually improved ties with Moscow and with most Arab states which cut relations over Egypt's treaty with Israel.

Internally, he tolerates opposition by Muslim fundamentalists and leftists as well as established political parties, provided it remains verbal.

He draws the line at violence and subversion for political ends. Police, armed since 1981 with emergency powers of detention, sometimes use them.

During 1985-86, Mubarak saw Egypt through a series of crises, including the still-unsolved murders of two Israeli officials in Cairo, the hijack of the Achille Lauro cruise liner and a rebellion by police conscripts which the army was called in to crush.

Despite such pressures, Mubarak has administered what he calls "doses of democracy," sticking to what foreign diplomats see as a personal commitment. The result, Egyptians say, is a more open society than Nasser or Sadat tolerated.

Backed by a huge majority in parliament for his National Democratic Party (NDP), Mubarak encourages a multi-party system and opposition newspapers sell in the streets alongside the government-owned national press.

Task force says U.S. should test and encourage Soviet changes

By Lawrence L. Knutson
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States and its Western allies should simultaneously test and encourage the domestic and foreign policy changes put in motion by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, a task force of scholars, corporate executives and former diplomats concludes.

Inaction by the Western alliance could mean abandoning the international agenda to the Soviets and passing up an opportunity to moderate Soviet power and end the arms race, the panel of experts said in a report made available Saturday.

A crucial test for Moscow will be its willingness to march words with deeds by speedily withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan and permitting Afghans to install the government of their choice, the report said.

While the Soviet Union remains "a closed communist society," the report said Gorbachev has undertaken the most far-reaching revamping of the Soviet system in 50 years and has challenged a series of ingrained practices that have stood unchanged since the time of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

"From arms control to emigration, the Soviet Union has begun to make changes long advocated by the West," it said.

While it concluded that these changes are not merely cosmetic, it said far more has to be done and that the West should not only encourage the Soviets to move more rapidly, it should test their intentions.

One such key test, it said, is ending the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

The underlying conclusion of the report is: "New political thinking

thinking in the East requires new policy thinking in the West."

The report concludes that Gorbachev's agenda is too important to be ignored.

"Such an attitude would put the West perpetually on the defensive, leaving Gorbachev to define the foreign policy agenda himself," the task force concluded.

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thinking in the East requires new policy thinking in the West."

Most women in survey bemoan love life

By James Barron

NEW YORK — A sampling of women's attitudes on their relationships with men by an author of best-selling books on sexuality has found that 84 per cent of women queried were "not satisfied emotionally" with their marriages or romantic involvements.

The sampling, by Shere Hite, also found that 83 per cent of respondents did not believe that most men understand the basic issues involved in making intimate relationships work.

The findings are contained in a 92-page book, "Women and Love," that is to be published Oct. 26. It is the third and final volume in a series begun by Mrs. Hite in 1976, when she published "The Hite Report: A Nationwide Study of Female Sexuality." Her second book, "The Hite Report on Male Sexuality," was published in 1981.

Many feminists hailed the earlier Hite reports as groundbreaking, but critics complained that

her research techniques did not result in accurate readings.

The third in the series is a compilation of 4,500 responses from women, 14 to 85 years old, who voluntarily agreed to answer a long questionnaire about their relationships. In this way it is similar to Mrs. Hite's previous works.

For "Women and Love," Mrs. Hite mailed out more than 100,000 questionnaires beginning in 1980. To guarantee anonymity, which she considered essential for obtaining frank responses, she sent the questionnaires to various groups around the country rather than to individuals.

These included, she said, church groups in 34 states, women's rights organizations in 32 states and counselling centres for women or families in 43 states.

Her results, she said in an interview, indicated that "Women are frustrated enough to want to make fundamental changes."

"Women feel they have changed in relationships, but the men have not," she added. In addition, 76 per cent said they wanted to trust the man in their lives, but his behaviour made them wary. Yet many reported that when they sought reassurance from the man, they were put down for being "insecure."

"Women in this study see men as the group that should adapt," Mrs. Hite said.

The sampling found that 71 per cent of respondents who have been married or involved in relationships for more than two years feel they had been unable to produce significant changes by asking for them.

But while 17 per cent said they believed that change is impossible, 21 per cent said they had changed noncommunicative relationships into equal, interactive relationships, often by going to counseling sessions with the man.

"This is the way men are," many said — The New York Times.

Italians say minis are here to stay

By Daniela Petroff
The Associated Press

MILAN, Italy — There's no skirtin' the issue. The mini is firmly established on the Milan runway.

Only a year ago, the Italian ready-to-wear designers playfully revived the miniskirt in an effort to liven up their staid tailored collections and make them more competitive with their frivolous French cousins.

To their surprise, the new look won rave reviews and the French immediately retaliated by yanking up their own hemlines.

In March, the battle continued with each side of the Alps claiming the record for the shortest mini for the winter of 1977-78, Versace in Milan and Ungaro in Paris.

Relegated for almost two decades to the fashion attic, the mini suddenly has reappeared on

city streets with a boldness unknown to its Carnaby Street forerunner. Once reserved for the young and beautiful, the new mini has been claimed by all regardless of age or configuration.

The halls of the Milan trade fair where the spring-summer 1988 Italian ready-to-wear collections got under way Sunday, saw microcosm of the world outside:

Black leather miniskirts, super-short minisweater-dresses, and chic plaid suits with blazer jackets almost longer than the matching skirt are the *in* look among fashion editors and buyers attending the shows.

"If you are over 25, you should not be allowed to buy one," said Paola Pisa, fashion editor for a Rome daily newspaper. "You can have your face fitted, your hips tapered, but they haven't invented a cure for aging knees. Knees are the giveaway."

In any case, the Italians know when they are on to a good thing and the top ready-to-wear designers are proposing even shorter, more daring hemlines for next year's warmer weather.

Krizia, who never shies from a daring trend — back in the early 1980s at the start of shoulder-padding, her box-shouldered could out-tackled any college fullback — presented her all-skirt collection Sunday with the longest outfit at least four inches above the knee.

The overall look is relaxed and youthful, safari style by day and birthday party demure by night than cutting them, presented his version of the summer mini, a super short skirt — at times so short it doesn't quite cover the buttocks.

This peekaboo mini in black patent leather stamped to look like crocodile skin served a double purpose: it can be a conversation piece as well as a water-resistant — if not bathing suit.

For the all-nighters, Krizia offers shiny navy blue miniskirts barely reaching below the thigh or polka-dotted navy halter mini dresses.

In keeping with her Lolita birthday girl, Krizia limits her

accessories to big round plastic button earrings, short gloves and wide belts with the word "girls" printed on gaily coloured leather.

In general, Krizia lets the clothes speak for themselves, keeping shades down to beige and gray by day, navy and white by night. Heels were on the low side, a departure from last season's Krizia mini look, when spike heels accentuated the distance from floor to hemline.

Later Sunday, the Michelangelo of Italian design, Gianfranco Ferré, who sculpts clothes rather than cutting them, presented his version of the summer mini, a super short skirt — at times so short it doesn't quite cover the buttocks.

This peekaboo mini in black patent leather stamped to look like crocodile skin served a double purpose: it can be a conversation piece as well as a water-resistant — if not bathing suit.

Brazil's popular anti-populist

There is a refreshing whiff of change in Brazil's political circles as an unconventional rising star makes himself and his policies known. Ivo Dawny compiles a profile.

RIO DE JANEIRO — Can a man, who unabashedly wears snappy blue blazers and Dior ties be a serious presidential candidate in a country where every millionaire normally strips to shirtless to the hustings?

This is a big talking point when São Paulo's political élites switch the spotlight onto the city's latest rising star — Guilherme Aff Domíngos.

Nobody believes Mr. Aff will put himself forward for the next presidential race to succeed President Jose Sarney, either next year or 1989; the city's mayoralty is his first target. But the 43-year-old deputy has a refreshing whiff of change with his expensive aftershave.

Since reaching Congress last November, almost everything about this Lebanese-Italian insurance company baron — the grandson of a door-to-door salesman — has appeared to be different. He has fought and won a series of crucial battles, drafting clauses which firmly endorse private enterprise at the expense of a *paterfamilias* state.

As secretary for agriculture in the São Paulo state government of Mr. Paulo Maluf, Mr. Aff has already proved he can make friends both in farming and the favela shanty towns by organising cut-rate wholesale markets which phased out middle-men. And, as president of a small business association, he won kudos for a fierce campaign of protest against rocketing interest rates.

As long as a year ago, Mr. Aff attributed the roots of inflation to government profligacy. As this is now the growing consensus in Brazil — it forced further government spending cuts recently — his other opinions have won a respectful audience.

Although characterised by his left-wing opponents as a capitalist reactionary, Mr. Aff's views are extremely radical to Brazilians. In his election manifesto, he promised to fight to "implode the neo-feudal regime, where the state is the great lord, with his court of technocrats, bureaucrats and beneficiaries and the Brazilian people his vassal."

To achieve this end, Mr. Aff advocates the end of all state subsidies and aid to public companies, devolution of many federal powers to the municipalities, abolition of cartels, monopolies and protectionism, a floating currency with no exchange controls and loans negotiated in the free market without government supervision.

So distrustful is he of the corrupting effects of bureaucratic power that he would allow workers and employers to opt to negotiate pensions and even

like the concept of modernity but actually fear change. Furthermore, conservative vested interests, for whom Mr. Aff's ideas are not only subversive but likely to be ruinous, are deeply embedded.

As the country wallows in stagnation, the antique nationalism of both socialist left and conservative right is looking less and less adequate to tackle issues.

The fact that Mr. Aff's dream combines free enterprise, free unionism and an attack on the suffocating state could yet gain mass appeal in places such as São Paulo, where capital and labour are strong and organised. It will be less appealing, however, in the poor north-east, where only a government job provides security and stans — Financial Times feature.

a more genuinely reformist system in which the cake would be cut by those who produce it without the cream being scraped off by parasites.

President Jose Sarney's populist rhetoric is no different from that of the leftist-inclined President Alan García of Peru, he claims. "Populism is Brazil's tragedy, and with no real political parties we only have institutions inherited from colonial days — the state, the armed forces and the church."

Mr. Aff points out that world leaders from Thatcher to Gorbatchev, Gonzales to Cavaco Silva in Portugal, are all surfing on the wave of "less government" while Brazil is drowning under inefficient or corrupt bureaucracy.

Essentially cautious, Brazilians

Chileans turn desert into farmland 'drop by drop'

By Eduardo Gallardo
The Associated Press

PICA, Chile — Literally drop by drop, an experimental irrigation technique is turning the world's driest desert into emerald-green farmland, producing grapefruit the size of bowling balls and a wide variety of other crops.

Agricultural experts say the government-financed project has an enormous potential to create jobs and bring much-needed export earnings to this indebted nation.

The centre of the project is Esmeralda, a 2,500-acre experimental farm near the town of Pica in the heart of the Atacama desert, 1,800 kilometres north of Santiago, the Chilean capital.

Esmeralda is producing a variety of fruits and vegetables on a commercial scale, agronomist Jorge Olave, who has managed the farm for six years, said in an interview.

Researchers at the farm have conquered the rainless climate through development of a technique known as "drip irrigation," Olave said.

"We use the little underground water available, and take it through plastic hoses to each tree or plant," he said.

A tour of the farm revealed a network of black plastic hoses covering the sandy ground, taking the water to every plant and tree. Irrigation is done at fixed hours, with two small drippers installed next to each plant, Olave said.

The technique has been dubbed in Spanish *gota a gota* — drop by drop.

It requires a little more water than in conventional agricultural zones, Olave said, "but yielding is far superior here, partly thanks to more intense sun during longer hours in the day."

"For example, each grapefruit produces about 300 kilograms during the day average 35 degrees Celsius during the day. By night, they fall to zero Celsius."

Randa Habib's corner

Whistle in the dark

THE BOOKLET "Your Guide to Amman" includes names of foreign correspondents in Amman and their office, home telephone numbers.

As one of them, I often put up with nasty phone calls from people who have no interest whatsoever with press matters. And I know I am not the only one. My female colleagues share this misfortune.

I always welcome telephone calls from the readers who want to discuss different matters. This is an absolutely different matter. But then, there are the other telephone calls from those who just doing it for fun. And still I have learned to live with it; but not for long. The calls started coming regularly between 3:30 and 5:00 a.m. The situation became unbearable. I tried several ways to stop the calls, but none of them worked. Until one day, when I read in a magazine about some tips given to American women who suffer from nasty phone calls. One tactic prescribes blowing a whistle in the phone, right in the ear of the troublesome caller. The noise is so annoying, it seems, that the person will think twice before risking to hear the whistle another time.

And this is what I did, a few days ago, at 4:00 a.m., when my secret caller, phoned. Since then, our nights at home are peaceful. So, if you are troubled by mysterious callers, just keep a whistle handy.

Kuwaiti island resort thrives at war's edge

By Philip Shehadi
Reuter

water swimming pool. "Last weekend there was a big bang, but no one took much notice."

Alexander the Great visited Failaka in 323 BC and found dense woods, sweet water and wild goats. He named it Leurus and ordered construction of a fortress, a temple and a military camp.

Failaka's fine natural ports made it a stopover for ships plying the Gulf as early as the Bronze Age 2,500 years before Christ.

Archaeological digs in the 1960s unearthed an advanced settlement contemporaneous with the Dilmun civilisation of Bahrain. Two Ionic columns mark the site of a Greek temple to the goddess Artemis, while a museum houses pottery, coins and statues dating back four millennia.

Early last month on the last weekend of summer, late-night revelries were interrupted by a particularly stunning firework. A 1,000-pound Silkworm missile whizzed 50 metres over the chalets on its way to Kuwait where it hit sand three km from a major oil refinery.

Two nights earlier, a missile exploded in the sea just off Failaka, 13 miles from the mainland. Kuwait says the missiles were fired by Iran from the occupied Iraqi Faw peninsula.

Ghaith said the war had not dampened business, perhaps because the peak summer season is the quietest on the waterfront. With temperatures exceeding 50 degrees centigrade, the fighting cases off.

But even last January at the height of a major Iranian offensive against Iraq's second city of Basra, 100 km away, Kuwaitis flocked to Failaka for their mid-year school break.

Residents recall how a missile at the time struck a remote part of the island, narrowly missing a car full of young men on a late-night drive.

Kuwait has been increasingly sucked into the war as Iran retaliates for the emir's support for Iraq. But there have been no Kuwaiti casualties and few Kuwaitis have changed their lifestyles because of it.

"The war doesn't bother us," said Fadil Al Fudhil, who was spending the day with 15 members of his family by the salt-

water swimming pool.

Old men gather at the fishermen's *divanîya*, an informal open house beside the port, for sweet tea and gossip about every islander's passion — fishing.

Mud brick houses of the pre-oil era are still in use beside modern villas and often provide the backdrop for Kuwaiti films and TV serials.

It is not uncommon to see father and son seated in front of their homes mending fishing nets in the way their ancestors did hundreds of years ago.

Islanders vaunt the lack of crime and warmth of human contact. Youths bemoan the lack of jobs and things to do. But the community is tight-knit and an island boy will almost certainly marry a *Failakawîya*.

Ghaith said business was down this summer because of bad weather and competition from a newly-opened resort at Khiran on the mainland near the Saudi border.

But he hoped to attract visitors

from other Gulf states such as Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. War or no war, he said, "we want to make next year a record year."

MORE LAND FOR CROPS

STATISTICS
that tell a story



An the world battles to feed its ever-growing population, new land continuously must be opened up for agriculture. Although irrigation can have drawbacks — it may not always be cost-effective, and over-irrigation can result in excess salinity — it is recognized as the single most effective way to increase crop yields. In 1970 the world had an estimated 168.5 million hectares under irrigation. In 1994 the figure is expected to be 257.5 million.

	LAND UNDER IRRIGATION		
	1970	1981	1994
South Asia	45.0	56.8	69.9
Asian centrally planned economies	39.7	47.9	54.3
North America	16.4	21.1	26.3
USSR	11.1	18.0	24.7
North Africa/Middle East	16.0	18.3	20.8
Latin America	10.2	14.4	18.4
East Asia	12.6	15.4	17.0
European Community	4.7	6.1	8.6
Eastern Europe	2.7	4.7	6.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	3.4	4.5	5.2
Non-EC Western Europe	3.1	3.9	4.6
Oceania	1.6	1.8	1.9

World Cup Cricket begins today

Pakistan favourites against Sri Lanka in opening of 8-nation championships

By Qamar Ahmad
Reuter

HYDERABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan start firm favourites against Sri Lanka in Thursday's opening match of the World Cup Cricket tournament, held amid tight security in Hyderabad.

A sell-out crowd of 15,000 should see plenty of runs on a lush green wicket, according to groundsmen Abdul Aziz, though there are some bare patches on one side of the outfield.

Pakistan have won 13 of their 17 one-day internationals against Sri Lanka and Imran Khan's team are confident of adding to the total at Hyderabad's Niaz Stadium.

They will be looking to exploit Sri Lanka's main weakness, a lack of bowling power. Asantha de Mel, the most successful Sri Lankan bowler in the 1983 World Cup, is not as sharp as four years ago.

On the batting front, the Sri Lankans will lean heavily, as often before, on hard-hitting captain Duleep Mendis, one of only five men in the eight-nation tournament to have played in all four world cups.

Mendis warmed up on Monday by hitting 80 from 89 balls as he steered his team to victory over a Pakistani invitation XI in a practice match. Young opener Brendon Kuruppu made 67.

But Mendis will have been alarmed by an initial batting slump which saw Sri Lanka struggling at 20 for three.

Pakistan, one of the favourites to reach the Nov. 8 final, have the stronger line-up on paper and a much better record in the competition. In Imran, Wasim Akram and Salim Jaffer they boast a formidable peace attack.

But Imran will be well aware that Sri Lanka are capable of surprises. They beat India by 47 runs in the 1979 tournament and a strong New Zealand side by three wickets four years later.

The match, the first of 27 in Pakistan and India, will be attended by Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo after he inaugurates improvements to the stadium.

Hyderabad was bubbling with cricket fever and local authorities, aware of its history of ethnic rioting, were taking no chances with security.

Two thousand extra police have been drafted into the city, the biggest in the southern province of Sind after Karachi, and

security was tight around the stadium itself.

"Cricket for Peace" is the official motto for the World Cup tournament.

On the eve of the fixture, first in the eight-nation cup, the entire area around the stadium had been cordoned off by police, plain-clothes officers and paramilitary security units.

Prime Minister Junejo is due to be guest of honour at the match, formally opening a new \$200,000 pavilion for VIPs and the players.

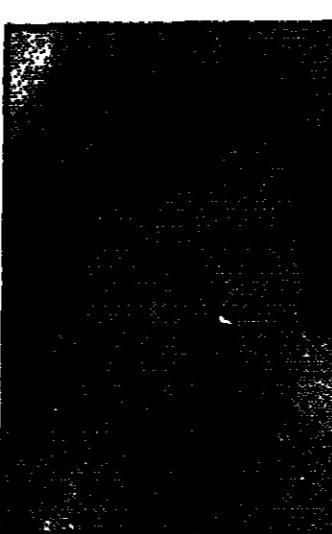
Police said they would not allow into the ground flags, banners, firecrackers, bottles, glasses or other objects which could be used as missiles.

Spectators will be searched on entry and security cameras have been installed to spot any trouble-makers. Unlike in England and Australia, alcohol is not a problem in strictly Muslim Pakistan, where it is illegal and against religious principles.

Outside the stadium municipal fire engines sprayed trees with water to give them a fresh look at the end of one of the driest summers in recent years.

Armed police patrolled the streets to prevent any recurrence of the clashes between rival Mohajir and Pashtun communities over the past year.

A curfew was imposed on the city and scores of activists arrested in late August after the



Imran Khan

latest outbreak of ethnic bloodletting spread from Karachi.

At least eight people were killed in Hyderabad and dozens wounded as activists attacked each other and set alight shops and vehicles.

The Mohajirs (refugees), Muslims who migrated from other parts of India at partition in 1947, have mounted a campaign against the match several times. We came to the conclusion there was no collaboration to lose," Essam Bahig, the new manager, told

Ardit Desio, who led the Italian research team, said in a television interview Wednesday that the measurements were made with the help of American satellites and were absolutely precise.

The scientists from Italy's national research council found that both mountains were above their previously stated heights, K2 by 5 metres (16.4 feet) and

Everest by 24 metres (78.7 feet).

This puts Everest at 8,872 metres (29,107 feet) and K2 at 8,616 metres (28,267 feet).

Two players and club officials

Everest remains highest

ROME (AP) — Italian scientists have presented new findings that Mount Everest and K2 have both "grown" but the Everest remains the highest mountain in the world.

The report to a scientific convention challenged preliminary findings by an American expedition to the Himalayas that K2 was actually higher than Everest, long considered "the roof of the world."

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Economy

Lebanese lira closes at 323 to dollar

BEIRUT (AP) — The Lebanese lira plunged to a record low against foreign currencies Wednesday as a worsening economic crisis tightened its grip on the civil war-plagued nation.

The lira, once the soundest currency in the Middle East, declined by 17 liras in one day

and closed at 323 to the U.S. dollar in the Beirut money market.

The lira rated 306 to the dollar Tuesday. The rapid slide was blamed on efforts by money speculators to absorb a 100 per cent wage increase announced by the government Monday.

British treasury chief says \$1.64 good level for pound

LONDON (AP) — Britain's chancellor of the exchequer, Nigel Lawson, said Wednesday that \$1.64 was a "very satisfactory rate" for the British pound.

In a radio interview with British Broadcasting Corporation, Mr. Lawson, Britain's treasury chief, also defended his proposals for stabilizing the value of the U.S. dollar and other major currencies which he presented last week at the annual joint meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in Washington.

Mr. Lawson proposed that a more permanent arrangement for limiting fluctuations among the currencies should be based on the size of the economy as a single whole in the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy.

When asked whether \$1.64 is too high an exchange rate for the pound, Mr. Lawson said: "No, I think that is a very satisfactory rate."

Last Wednesday the pound was quoted at \$1.6395 in London. A treasury spokesman said Mr. Lawson's comment was consistent with his policy of holding the pound "around its present levels" to maintain the international competitiveness of British industry.

Mr. Lawson said stable exchange rates "produce a very important discipline against inflationary forces."

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6382/92	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3707/80	Canadian dollar
	1.8263/70	West German marks
	2.0550/60	Dutch guilders
	1.5245/55	Swiss francs
	37.91/94	Belgian francs
	6.0775/0800	French francs
	1317/1318	Italian lira
	145.60/70	Japanese yen
	6.4075/4125	Swedish crowns
	6.6725/75	Norwegian crowns
One ounce of gold	7.0100/50	Danish crowns
	458.60/459.10	U.S. dollars

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1987

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will have a very clear perception of how to arrange your affairs in a more beneficial order, especially those of a financial nature. Be sure not to overlook the details of any plans which are pending.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Depend on your common sense today. Try to make things get out of hand and find a way to get out of that if you've been in trouble.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Work on improving your appearance, as this may play an important role in your success today. Accept advice graciously.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Don't hesitate to make revisions in your business plans. Establish more harmony at home by helping your wife with chores.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A close friend has a wonderful suggestion for you. Don't be too headstrong and miss out on a great opportunity today.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Your daily work is under scrutiny by a superior, so be willing to make any changes which are suggested. Try to be more cooperative.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A wealthy woman can give you good and profitable ideas, even if your views differ. This is a good day to get into some favorite sports.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Family members can be quite helpful in handling business and financial affairs. If you have guests in, make

sure they are helpful ones.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make time to answer questions from business associates. Take over important contracts, giving special attention to the fine print.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Your daily activities can produce many benefits if you make a few simple changes. Co-workers can assist you with a new plan.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be sure you can afford any recreations you might be planning. Don't let any important bills go unpaid. Tonight is fine for socializing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Try to handle problems at home in a more practical manner. Invite a few friends over; you can be of great help to them.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) An older friend can give you fine advice for your future. This evening has some surprises in store, and will be very memorable indeed.

If Your Child Is Born Today

He or she will have a fine understanding of what motivates people, and will be extremely adept at making investments. For this reason, a good business-oriented education would be a good idea, but don't neglect the humanities. A good healthy mind is essential.

"The Stars Impel: they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1987

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Use more care than usual in the handling of money. Revamp your budget and eliminate unnecessary expenses. You must economize now, as there may be a need for emergency funds in the near future.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be wary of making any stupid mistakes. Get advice from a financial expert but double-check it before you rely on it.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Use tact when dealing in business today. A smile and some simple favors will go a long way. Improve your appearance if time permits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be cautious in making any investments today. Be sure that you do nothing which will irritate a good friend this evening.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be slow and deliberate in pursuing your business interests. Postpone a meeting with friends until you really have time.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Any problems which arise should be carefully thought over before you make any attempt to solve them. Be kind to everyone you meet today.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) If you're thinking about beginning a new romance, first check into it carefully. Listen to the suggestions and opinions of others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Examine your business relationships and get advice from an expert before you make any changes. Be

sure to drive carefully.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You'll be dealing with a very stubborn associate today, so try to strike a compromise. Pay particular attention to public duties.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Make sure you get all the week's work completed today. You won't be in the mood Monday morning. Be very cautious when driving.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A recarnation you planned may cost much more than you expect. Show your mate your devotion and improve the home atmosphere.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)

Don't become involved in any arguments at home, especially if money is concerned. Get more than one estimate for home repairs.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be

wary of making any oral or written mistakes which could be quite costly. Keep an eye on your purse or wallet if you travel today.

If Your Child Is Born Today

He or she will always have both feet planted firmly on the ground and will always maintain a practical attitude. Teach your progeny to study the ethical and moral sides of any ventures before getting into them. Try to set an open-minded example. Sports are a must here.

"The Stars Impel: they do not

compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

© 1987, McNaught Synd.

Survey shows bankers taking gloomier view of world credit

NEW YORK (AP) — Bankers are taking a gloomier view of the world debt situation than they were six months ago, according to a survey by an American business magazine.

The Lebanese lira, which rated 2.5 to the dollar before outbreaks of the civil war in 1975, has been hard hit by 12 years of violence in a country that imports more than 85 per cent of its needs.

Moderate leaders blame the economic decline on the inability of authorities to collect taxes in the militia-ruled country, which strips the state treasury of its basic revenue.

Every six months, the monthly magazine asks about 100 international banks to rate the credit-worthiness of the 109 nations on a scale 0 to 100. In the magazine's September issue, Japan ranked first with a score of 95.4, and North Korea 109th with 4.3.

The global average rating was 39.3, down 0.7 points from last March and down 1.2 points from September 1986.

Countries with higher ratings generally find it easier to borrow from the banks and are likely to get better terms on loans.

Since last March only two countries — the Philippines and East Germany — gained a full point or more, while the ratings of 34 countries declined by at least one point.

The newspaper reported that Trade Minister Ariel Sharon met recently with a visiting group of Chinese businessmen and agreed to their request to export to Israel "on a reciprocal basis."

Yediot wrote that Israel has already begun exporting and that some goods are shipped directly to China from the Red Sea port of Eilat.

The paper said Sharon refused to say what goods Israel and China were selling to each other.

It reported that Israel also exports to China via Hong Kong. The exports to Hong Kong include large amounts of clothing, especially bathing suits.

China and Israel do not maintain diplomatic relations but have gradually stepped up their unofficial ties over the past few years.

Last week the two countries held their highest-level talks to date when Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met his Chinese counterpart, Mr. Wu Xueqian, at the United Nations in New York.

Following his talks with the Chinese foreign minister, Peres said: "The meeting with the foreign minister of China... indicated a change and the Chinese saw it as such."

Leading Soviet economist urges market competition

MOSCOW (R) — A leading Soviet economist on Tuesday urged the introduction of competition to the country's socialist economy as state monopolies were failing to provide the market with adequate goods and services.

Mr. Leonid Abalkin, head of the Soviet Economics Institute, told the trade union newspaper Trud that competition would be consistent with socialism if firms spurned the profit motive and competed for the good of society.

"Extreme economic centralisation has led to monopolistic tendencies, that is, to a situation in which in many cases we have a single supplier of goods, a single body handling research and construction in a given sphere, etc.," he said.

The decision, which will apply to contracts signed after the adoption of the measure, stipulates that the non-Iraqi employees working for these companies will also be exempted from tax.

Mr. Abalkin said this had led to a decline in quality, and used the Soviet shoe industry as an example.

"Today we produce as many leather shoes as the United States, West Germany, England and France taken together. But it's impossible to choose a good pair in a shop," he said.

Mr. Abalkin said a good starting point would be competition between state firms and non-state cooperatives.

He said consumers presented with a choice would buy the best goods, ensuring profitability for the producer.

In addition to the line, the Soviets are sending technicians to Iran to help complete a steel mill and a power station. The two nations also are discussing a possible rail link.

Relations between Tehran and Moscow worsened after the 1979 Islamic revolution, a crackdown on the pro-Soviet communist Tudeh Party and the Soviet invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan.

The improvement in ties began last year at a time when Iran was emerging from a post-revolution isolation, and apparently was partly prompted by a desire to find a counterweight to the United States.

Iran also has resumed sales of natural gas to its huge northern neighbour, and also stands to gain economically from the shipping and other proposed deals.

THE BETTER HALF, By Harris

I CALLED CHUCK LAST NIGHT, MARCIE. I DON'T THINK HE LIKES YOU MORE THAN HE LIKES ME...

YOU'RE TURNING HIM AGAINST ME!!

MARIE!

WANT TO BORROW A COMB BEFORE WE GO IN, SIR?

Principal's Office

© 1987 Harris

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY OCTOBER 8-9, 1987

U.S. Congress bans all imports from Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — An embargo on imports from Iran, including oil, was approved by both houses of the U.S. Congress in a bid to put America's economic policy in line with its military posture in the Gulf.

The Senate and House of Representatives approved separate bills on Tuesday calling for a total embargo of Iranian goods. Conference from the two houses agree a single version of the bill, which could be sent to President Reagan this week.

The White House has said it is sympathetic to the embargo legislation but must study the bill's implications before announcing a position on it. U.S. officials have said it would be very difficult to enforce an embargo.

Both the House and Senate measures would bar all Iranian goods but would allow President Reagan to delay the embargo for up to 180 days if he felt it was in U.S. interests to do so.

U.S. imports of oil and other Iranian products, such as textiles and pistachio nuts, have averaged about \$600 million annually in recent years.

This year, however, the United States has already purchased about \$700 million in crude oil from Iran. The highest import level came in July, the month U.S. protection of Kuwaiti tankers from Iranian attack in the Gulf began. Iran is not ordinarily a top exporter of oil to the United States but in July was second only to Nigeria.

Some legislators and independent experts said a U.S. embargo on Iranian oil would have little impact on Iran because Tehran could sell its inexpensive oil elsewhere and the United States would have to purchase higher prices.

The Senate is expected to consider a bill soon, possibly this week, to force President Reagan to invoke the 1973 war powers act, which could result in a pull-out of U.S. forces from the Gulf. The measure is expected to be defeated.

There is more Senate support to limit the U.S. protection operation to 90 days.

Wall Street drop drags down world share prices

LONDON (R) — Share prices around the world tumbled on Wednesday after Wall Street's record one-day drop the day before. The dollar also slid, while gold firmed slightly.

Despite the stock market falls, dealers said most investors remained calm in the face of mounting concern that inflation and interest rates around the world are set to rise. These were the worrying factors that set off the 91.55-point fall in the Dow Jones industrial average on Tuesday to 2,548.63.

In one market, Hong Kong, investors decided an initial sell-off meant there were bargains to had. Their buying sent the Hang Seng

